

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fiber-optic cable includes a conductive coating formed around an  
5 optical fiber. The conductive coating may be in the shape of a band or ring  
located at a terminal end of the fiber, or may extend along the entire length of  
the fiber or a portion thereof. For protection purposes, the fiber is covered  
with a buffer made from a plastic or polymer. The fiber-optic cable may be  
attached to a plug or receptacle of a connector. Preferably, the cable is  
10 attached to the plug. Under these circumstances, the receptacle would be  
equipped with a verification circuit for confirming that the plug has been  
properly installed into the receptacle housing. An electronic device may be  
used to alert a user as to whether proper installation has occurred. In addition  
to providing an indication that an optical connection has been made, the  
15 conductive coating may be adapted to carry electrical signals. In this way, the  
fiber-optic cable would operate as an electrical transmission line and an  
optical transmission line.

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